

POWDER POINT BRIDGE

Dec. 1889

New Bridge for Duxbury.

For some years past there has been talk of putting a pile bridge across the bay from Salter's beach to give the people of Duxbury a chance to get to the long, hard, sandy beach on the outside, known as Powder Point, and to encourage the building of summer cottages along the beach. The point can be approached now only by driving around the bay, which is a long, hard road, or crossing by boat.

In the past W. J. Wright has generously helped our town, improving its looks in many ways and at the same time giving better inducements for outsiders to come and settle. He is always on the alert for anything that will raise the valuation and increase the population here, and saw what a grand benefit the bridge would be, bringing in direct communication with the town the entire stretch of beach on the outside of the bay, shortening the road several miles and making it practicable to build a handsome line of cottages, thus raising the town valuation thousands of dollars.

Mr. Wright, from his own pocket paid different men, both in town and out, to survey, sound and figure on the cost of this bridge, so that our voters might know exactly what they were doing at the special town meeting called at town hall Nov. 20. This shows the generous heart of Mr. Wright, and in itself should be enough to convince every man here that he carries the interests of our town foremost in his mind and will always help along public enterprises in every way possible.

At the special meeting, Nov. 20, the following report was made and placed on record:

At a town meeting in Duxbury, Nov. 20, 1889, under the second article in the warrant, "To see what action the town will take in regard to the construction of a pile bridge from Powder Point to Duxbury," Salter's beach, after hearing such discussion as may be had on the subject.

Voted, sixty-five for and forty-five against, on the question, "Does the town want a bridge from Powder Point to Duxbury beach," in connection with application to the legislature for leave to borrow sufficient money to pay said assessment in such manner and upon such terms as the treasurer of said town may hereafter determine, in sums not to exceed \$25,000. Authorized by vote of the town. Also voted yea on the form of the petition to the county commissioners for them to order or build said bridge.

JOSIAH PETERSON, Town Clerk.

DUXBURY, PLYMOUTH CO., MASS., 1889.
TO THE HONORABLE LEGISLATURE OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

GENTLEMEN: Your petitioners ask your favorable action on the following subject:

That the town of Duxbury by its treasurer is hereby authorized to borrow a sum of money not exceeding \$25,000 for the purpose of paying any assessments by the county commissioners of Plymouth County, which may be laid by virtue of Chapter 301 of the Acts of 1887, and acts amendatory thereof.

Authorized by vote of the town.
JOSIAH PETERSON, Town Clerk.

DUXBURY, PLYMOUTH CO., MASS.,

Nov. 20, 1889.

Voted, That the inhabitants of the town of Duxbury, through their selectmen, respectfully petition the county commissioners of Plymouth county to order or to build a bridge, by virtue of chapter 301 of Acts of 1887, and acts amendatory thereof.

(Authorized by vote of the town.)
JOSIAH PETERSON, Town Clerk.

DUXBURY, PLYMOUTH CO., MASS., '89.
TO THE HONORABLE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PLYMOUTH COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

GENTLEMEN: Your petitioners, agreeable to the above vote, respectfully request that you will take action upon the same at your earliest convenience.

At this meeting Mr. Wright, J. E. Hollis, Jr., D. D. Devereaux, George Bradford, Samuel P. Soule, W. E. Campbell and others were strongly in favor of the bridge; while F. B. Knapp, Lawrence Bradford, Hambleton E. Smith and others were opposed. After strong speeches from both sides, the vote was called, with result as above indicated.

The next day a notice was placed at the post office, reading as follows:

INFORMAL MEETING.

The tax payers of Duxbury who are opposed to increasing their taxes \$25,000 are requested to meet at town hall at 2 o'clock Tuesday, Nov. 26, 1889.

F. B. KNAPP.
This notice called out a small company of voters. Samuel Soule presided.

The misstatements made by the papers had misled several voters as to the cost of the bridge. A party of four called on the county commissioners and received from them an offer in aid of the bridge, which was put on record. The county would pay one-third of the cost of construction if the town would pay the remaining two-thirds. Printed statements were circulated among the voters present, giving clearly the statement of cost of construction as follows:

ESTIMATE FOR BUILDING A BRIDGE AT POWDER POINT.

County 1-3 \$6,666. A contractor \$2,000. Town \$11,334, say \$20,000.

For example: Our present valuation is, say \$1,220,000.

We want to raise by bond, say 10 years at 4 per cent interest 11,334

Interest on \$11,334 at 4 per cent \$453.36

Retire yearly 10 per cent for 10 years 1133.40

Repairs yearly estimated, 750.00

\$2336.76

To be raised by taxation, \$2336.76 yearly, or \$1.92 on \$1000.

The anticipated increase in valuation of \$120,000 would reduce the general tax 10 per cent yearly.

\$20,000 is the highest estimate given by any engineer. \$24,000 was estimated by the county commissioners. This was for full cost of bridge.

As several of our voters had not previously looked at it in this light, it is strange that they were opposed to

building of the bridge, and now they are in favor of it.

Very respectfully,
JOSIAH PETERSON, Town Clerk.

As the persons opposed to the bridge numbered but two at the informal meeting, it was thought best by them to drop all objections and let the plan progress as fast as possible.

The petitions, one to legislature and one to the county commissioners, were put into the hands of the selectmen to be acted on immediately, and the work will doubtless go on without hindrance.

The bridge will be a continuation of the county road, keeping about straight with it across the bay, a distance of

2,407 feet, the driveway to be 24 feet wide, with foot path outside overhanging the main bridge. The draw will clear 28 feet, allowing ample room for boats as large as can possibly sail up as far as the bridge.

It is hoped to be able to start work on the bridge early in the spring, and to finish it in about three months.

With the new bridge across the bay, a large hotel on Salter's beach, which Duxbury must have, and these houses brought within building distance, our town can look for quite an increase in valuation and summer population within the next five years.

Love's Dream—Spring and Repentance.

If I die first, dear love,
My mournful soul, made free,
Shall sit in heaven's high portal
To wait and watch for thee—
To wait and watch for thee, love,
And through the deep, dark space,
To peer with human longings
For thy beloved face.
Mid all the stars of heaven,
One only do I see,
The earth-star of my passion.
Hail heaven for holding thee—
All heaven for holding thee, love,
And, brightest of the spheres,
By thy dear smile illumined,
Or hallowed by thy tears.
If I die first, dear love,
I feel that this shall be,
For heaven will not be heaven
Until it's shared with thee—
Until it's shared with thee, love,
I'll linger at the gate,
Or be thy guardian angel
To teach thee how to wait.
And when thine hour shall come,
And through the wedding night,
I see thy happy spirit,
Upswearing, robed in light,
Mine shall go forth to meet thee,
And through the eternal door,
Passion with thee rejoicing,
Made one for evermore.

Children of the Week....Popular Superstitions....Book

Monday's child is fair of face,
Tuesday's child is full of grace,
Wednesday's child is born for woe,
Thursday's child has far to go,
Friday's child is loving and giving,
Saturday's child must work for a living,
But the child that is born on the Sabbath
Is bonnie and happy, and wealthy and gay.